

The Examiner acknowledges that Shimada ('495) does not specifically teach a “display device for displaying a maximum amplitude,” but contends that the signal processing device inherently includes a display device. Similarly, Shimada ('681) appears to describe a device that is similar to the device recited in claim 14 except a “display device for displaying a maximum amplitude.” In this regard, the Office Action does not strongly provide support for the Examiner’s position.

While Shimada ('495) discloses that the signal processing means adds and averages the electrical signal provided from the response detection means at a constant titling rate in accordance with the vibration of the vibration excitor means imparted to the examination target based on a trigger generated when the excitation current is detected, Shimada ('495) does not teach or suggest a composition for displaying a maximum amplitude, required by claim 14 of the present invention.

As with Shimada ('495), Shimada ('681) does not teach or suggest a composition for displaying a maximum amplitude, while Shimada ('681) discloses that the reception signal processing section has the function for calculating a reflection energy of the reception signal.

On the contrary, the display device for displaying a maximum amplitude, according to the present invention, pays attention to the characteristic to which the amplitude of the reception signal increases by the existence of the defect, and claims the component which displays the maximum value of the amplitude among various parameters of the reception signal. As a result, this invention asserts that there be an effect to directly quantitatively represent the state of the defect.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/070,379

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The invention according to claim 14 easily composes the signal processing section (which is generally required to achieve complex signal processing and a predetermined judgment function and which requires a lot of circuits) by comparatively easy signal processing which calculates the maximum value of the amplitude.

The invention according to claim 14 discloses the technology which can intuitively represent the condition of the defect by a bar chart or a number of lighting pilot lamps as a means to quantitatively represent the condition of the defect compared with the prior art, in which the defect is displayed by the digital information.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 and claims 15-27, which depend from claim 14, are not anticipated by, or obvious in view of, Shimada ('495) and Shimada ('681).

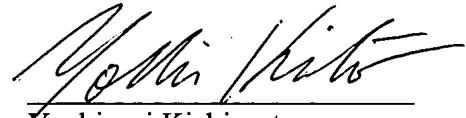
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 4, 2004